

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

James Alfred Thompson

Confirmation No.: 8553

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Examiner: J. O. Mendoza

For: CABLE NETWORK ACCESS CONTROL
SOLUTION

DECLARATION OF JAMES A. WOLSIFFER

1. My name is James A. Wolsiffer. I am over 18 years of age, of sound mind, and capable of making this declaration.
2. I am employed by Buckeye CableSystem ("Buckeye"), where I hold the position of Director of Technical Operations.
3. For the past 31 years, I have been employed by Buckeye.
4. During the past 31 years I have held both technical positions and management positions such as: Service Technician, Trunk Technician, Special Projects Supervisor, Construction Supervisor, Technical Operations Supervisor, Technical Operations Manager, and Director of Technical Operations.
5. I am a certified Master Technician, a certified Master Technician on HFC Networks, and a member of the Society of Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE).
6. I hold an ASEE in Electrical Engineering from Owens College.
7. I serve on the Toledo Public Schools Telecommunications Board and the Owens College Engineering Advisory Board.

8. Buckeye has currently deployed thousands of cable distribution boxes in the multi-dwelling unit (MDU) environment in the United States. such cable distribution boxes are hereafter referred to as "Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes."
9. The Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes are secured by traditional mechanical locks and keys. Accordingly, Cable Company Contractors and Employees require a physical key to unlock the Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes.
10. The Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes are routinely subjected to in-person audits to determine whether Cable Theft has occurred. The in-person audits are expensive and have proven to be ineffective in reducing theft of service.
11. The Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes do not include any mechanism to remotely authorize access to a Cable Company Contract or Employee.
12. The Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes do not include any mechanism to enable them to be remotely unlocked.
13. The Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes do not include any mechanism to enable them to be remotely audited.
14. I have reviewed Cable Distribution Boxes provided by a variety of vendors over the last 31 years. All of the reviewed Cable Distribution Boxes focused on improving the strength or design of the metal lockbox and mechanical lock on the Cable Distribution Boxes. None of the Cable Distribution Boxes included any functionality to (i) enable remote unlocking or (ii) enable remote auditing.
15. The fundamental design and operation of the Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes described in paragraphs 8-13 has remained unchanged since at least 1980.
16. Cable Theft in the MDU environment has been a problem (and continues to be a problem) since at least 1980. In particular, cable theft in the Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes currently occurs in at least the following manner:

- a. Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes are physically compromised by unauthorized parties breaking into the Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes. The unauthorized parties subsequently connect non-customers to enable them to receive cable service from the Legacy Cable Distribution Box.
 - b. Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes are left open by Cable Company Contractors and Employees. Unauthorized parties subsequently connect non-customers to enable them to receive cable service from the Legacy Cable Distribution Box.
 - c. Keyed locks used to secure the Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes are easily duplicated (or readily available) and, accordingly, available for current and former Cable Company Contractors and Employees to access Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes. Non-customers are subsequently connected, which enables them to receive cable service from the Legacy Cable Distribution Box.
17. Cable Theft has been occurring in the Cable Television Industry for as long as we have been involved in servicing MDU. The Cable Thefts have resulted in damage to our equipment and facilities and loss of revenue. The Cable Theft in Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes is also detrimental to our customers due to problems caused as a result of improper hook ups made to the Buckeye Network. In severe cases these problems can cause full interruption of reception of our signals, transmission of signals from our customers to our head end and loss of data and voice (phone) services to our customers.
 18. Prior to learning about the Cable Distribution Boxes developed by Remote Security Systems, LLC (hereafter RSS Cable Distribution Boxes), I was not aware of any Cable Distribution Box technology to effectively address Cable Theft described in paragraphs 15-16.

19. In April 2009, Buckeye deployed 13 RSS Cable Distribution Boxes in the MDU environment, thereby replacing the previously installed Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes. The RSS Cable Distribution Boxes are located in 13 high Cable Theft areas.
20. The RSS Cable Distribution Boxes enable Buckeye to address the problems of Cable Theft in the MDU environment by:
 - a. Providing a mechanism to remotely authorize access to the RSS Cable Distribution Box. This mechanism enables fine-grained control of who can access a particular RSS Cable Distribution Box including removing access to former Cable Company Employees and Contractors.
 - b. Providing a mechanism to enable unlocking the RSS Cable Distribution Boxes after remote authorization has been granted.
 - c. Tracking access to the RSS Cable Distribution Boxes using a work log, which may be remotely accessed.
 - d. Eliminating the cost of replacing the locks on Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes when a key is lost or a Cable Company Employee or Contractor is terminated.
 - e. Incorporating an internal locking mechanism, which removes external failure points of the locking mechanism used to secure the Legacy Cable Distribution Boxes.
21. Before we installed the RSS Cable Distribution Boxes as discussed in paragraph 18, Buckeye experienced several thefts in the prior 12 months at each of the 13 locations. After installation of the RSS Cable Distribution Boxes, I am not aware of any incidents of Cable Theft in MDU environments in which the RSS Cable Distribution Boxes are deployed.

22. The authentication device, the memory, the electronic access control system, and the lock in the cable RSS Cable Distribution Boxes are solely powered using power from the coaxial cable line. This functionality is considered critical for Buckeye because it enables Buckeye to easily deploy the RSS Cable Distribution Boxes as there is no requirement for additional power to be supplied to the RSS Cable Distribution Boxes.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein are of my own knowledge, are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signed this 1st day of October 2009



James A. Wolsiffer